

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1 to 23 (cancelled).

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method for manufacturing gas turbine components, comprising:

providing at least one metal powder and at least one foaming agent;
mixing the at least one metal powder with the at least one foaming agent,
compacting the resulting mixture to form at least one precursor; and
foaming the at least one precursor by heating the at least one precursor in a mold until a defined degree of foaming is reached;
cooling the at least one precursor when the defined degree of foaming is reached to terminate the foaming, the cooled at least one precursor being at least one gas turbine component having a closed and supporting exterior wall.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein the at least one metal powder is selected from the group consisting of an aluminum-based alloy, a titanium-based alloy, a nickel-based alloy, an intermetallic alloy and combination thereof.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein the at least one foaming agent comprises titanium hydride.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein the compacting step comprises compacting by extrusion or axial pressing.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein the at least one metal powder includes a plurality of metal powders, each of the plurality of metal powders having different melting points.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein the at least one metal powder includes a plurality of metal powders, each of the plurality of metal powders having different powder granularities.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein said mixing comprises mixing the at least one metal powder with the at least one foaming agent and with a material selected from the group consisting of ceramic particles, ceramic fibers and combinations thereof.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 24, wherein at least one supporting and/or function-relevant component made of a non-foamable material is at least partially surrounded by foam or partially embedded in foam during the foaming step.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the at least one precursor to be foamed and the component to be partially surrounded by foam or partially embedded in foam are made of the same material.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the at least one precursor to be foamed and the component to be partially surrounded by foam or partially embedded in foam are made of different materials.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the at least one gas turbine component is a blade, and wherein when the at least one precursor is foamed in the mold, a blade root made of a non-foamable material is partially surrounded by foam or partially embedded in foam during the foaming step.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the at least one gas turbine component includes a blade, and wherein the at least one precursor is foamed in a mold with at least one integrated flow channel, at least one component forming the flow channel being surrounded by foam during the foaming process.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claims 24, wherein the at least one gas turbine component includes a plurality of individual blades or blade segments formed from a corresponding plurality of precursors, and wherein the method further comprises fixedly joining the plurality of individual blades or blade segments with a forged or cast rotor carrier via soldering or welding.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 24, further comprising, subsequent to the cooling step, coating a surface of the at least one gas turbine component.

Claims 38 to 42 (cancelled).